

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

1 12. (New) A method for cooling a trunnion ring, the trunnion ring supporting
2 a vessel in a metallurgical converter and having a surface adjacent the vessel and being in a
3 spaced relationship from the vessel, said method comprising the steps of:

4 coupling one or more cooling panels to cover at least a portion of the surface of the
5 trunnion ring adjacent the vessel;

6 supplying a coolant at an inlet for at least one of said cooling panels;

7 circulating said coolant in said cooling panel and said coolant serving to cool the trunnion
8 ring by absorbing heat radiated from said vessel.

1 13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said step of coupling
2 said one or more cooling panels comprises affixing a bracket to each of said cooling panels and
3 connecting said respective bracket to said trunnion ring, and said bracket permitting removal of
4 said cooling panel for repair or replacement.

1 14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said step of supplying
2 a coolant comprises connecting a coolant supply tank and pump to the inlet of said cooling panel
3 and to an outlet on said cooling panel.

1 15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein for said step of
2 circulating said coolant, said cooling panel includes a plurality of conduits and said coolant is
3 circulated through said plurality of conduits.

1 16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, further including the step of
2 interconnecting at least two of said cooling panels, wherein each of said cooling panels include
3 an outlet, and said step of interconnecting comprises coupling the outlet of one of said cooling
4 panels to the inlet of another one of said cooling panels.

1 17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of coupling
2 said one or more cooling panels comprises detachably coupling said cooling panels to said
3 trunnion ring, so that any one of said cooling panels is removable for replacement.

1 18. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of coupling
2 said one or more cooling panels comprises said cooling panel having a bracket and connecting
3 said bracket to said trunnion ring, and said bracket being detachable for removing said cooling
4 panel for repair.

1 19. (New) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said step of supplying
2 a coolant comprises providing a coolant supply tank and pump having an output and an input,
3 and coupling said coolant supply output to the inlet of a first one of said cooling panels, and
4 coupling said coolant supply input to the outlet of another of said cooling panels.

1 20. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein for said step of
2 circulating said coolant comprises said cooling panel having a network of conduits and said
3 coolant being circulated by said coolant pump through said network of conduits.